

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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**GOV. EASLEY UNVEILS NEW VOLUNTEER INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT MILITARY
COMMUNITIES**

Declares April "Month of the Military Child"

RALEIGH—Gov. Mike Easley today unveiled the state's new website that will help residents find information about how they can help support military families and their communities. In addition, Easley declared April the "Month of the Military Child."

"These brave young men and women are risking their lives for our American freedom and many of them are leaving behind loved ones that depend on them," said Easley. "I ask the people of North Carolina to focus their support for our troops on the families and communities they have left behind. This new website gives specific information for those willing to lend their time and resources, but it is also a place for people needing help. Families seeking assistance can locate organizations and individuals willing to lend a hand."

The website, www.governor.state.nc.us/mil will help link military families who need help with people who want to volunteer. Many of our military families are in need of childcare, help with household duties and other various errands. In addition to providing that information, the website will give guidelines for individuals and businesses that want to donate and show support in other ways. The website will also have a current events section where residents can find out more information about upcoming events and ways they can support the troops and their families.

During the month of April, each military base will be holding special events to recognize and celebrate the "Month of the Military Child." This has been tradition with the Department of Defense since 1986 and a tradition Easley deemed important as well.

This initiative was developed through collaboration with the Division of Veteran Affairs, the American Legion, The North Carolina Commission on Volunteer Service and Community Service in the Governor's Office, area Chambers of Commerce, N.C. National Guard, and a representative from each of our military bases.

North Carolina has a strong tradition of being the most military friendly state in the nation. There are approximately 120,000 active duty personnel stationed on North Carolina bases, more than 25,000 residents of North Carolina stationed at bases outside the state, and approximately 25,000 civilians serving in the United States Reserve Forces and National Guard Components.

(Attached is a copy of the proclamation.) ###

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